



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq
Country Brief
September 2024

In Numbers

55%



45%



47,791 People assisted in September 2024

USD 1.02 million Cash-based transfers made in September 2024

USD 9.6 million six months (October 2024 – March 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Improvements in the security environment and recent political stability have created opportunities for Iraq to move toward a positive trajectory. However, the adverse effects of climate change are impacting agricultural productivity. Increased salinization, desertification, reduced water flows in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and decreasing rainfall have resulted in the loss of 12 million hectares of arable land, drastically affecting agricultural production. The repercussions of the climate change crisis have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, leading to distress and heightened food insecurity.

In a strategic move, WFP Iraq is transitioning its role from crisis response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This shift is particularly significant given Iraq's susceptibility to climate change, especially in the southern region of the country. WFP is aligning the targeting of beneficiaries across the national Jousour programme for skills development, youth economic empowerment (YEMP), climate agricultural practices (CAP) activities, and strengthening the safety net of the national social protection system. This alignment ensures strategic objectives are met and broaden outreach to previously underserved areas.



Population: **46.5million**
(UNFPA 2024)

2021 Human Development Index:
121 out of 191 (lowest)

Poverty rate: **24.8%** (Ministry
of Planning, World Bank,
2021)

1.09 million IDPs (IOM)
286,099 Syrian refugees in Iraq
(UNHCR)

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP assisted 2,236 camp residents (550 households) in the Jada'a1 camp in Ninewa Governorate with e-vouchers for food commodities. Additionally, WFP distributed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 7,793 individuals (1,572 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates. WFP assisted 37,762 Syrian Refugees (6,718 households) in the nine camps in Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah with CBT through Money Transfer.
- On 23 September, WFP and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) visited a Multiple Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) distribution site in Kirkuk Governorate. The ECHO team toured the site, received a briefing on the distribution process, and participated in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to gather feedback from beneficiaries.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate Change

- On 26 September, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), launched the e-Farming pilot project in Karbala Governorate in the presence of H.E., the Minister of Agriculture, WFP Country Director, and the Governor of Karbala. This digital platform will support farmers through the automation of agricultural activities in alignment with strategic Government plans.
- On 26 September, WFP Iraq, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), officially launched the Youth Economic Empowerment project in the presence of H.E., the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. The launch occurred during a celebration coinciding with the 85th anniversary of the Ministry's establishment. With WFP technical support, the project will provide participants in Baghdad and Diwaniya Governorates with specialized Entrepreneurship Training of Trainers (ToT). These programmes equip local trainers with the knowledge to guide the Social Safety Net (SSN) recipients to sustainable livelihoods.
- As part of their collaboration to support agricultural value chains in Ninawa Governorate, WFP and the International Trade Centre (ITC) conducted a joint mission to the Hemedat area in Ninawa Governorate. They visited an agricultural aggregation hub facility that

WFP Iraq Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)

| Total Requirements (In USD) | Total Received (In USD) | Percentage Funded |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 668 million | 378 million | 72% |
| 2024 Requirements (In USD) | | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2024 – March 2025) |
| 90.3 million | | 9.6 million |

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in Iraq, including IDPs and refugees, can meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

Provide unconditional food assistance to IDPs, refugees, and other crisis-affected people.

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

Provide livelihood support, asset creation, and climate adaptation activities, including capacity strengthening to targeted farmers and communities.

Implement climate resilience projects for targeted individuals and communities for and on behalf of the Government and other actors.

Strategic Outcome 3: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities and systems for targeting and assisting food-insecure vulnerable people by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

Provide institutional capacity strengthening to Government officials and partners.

Provide support to Government officials and partners in enhancing information technology for managing PDS modernization and strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

aims to enhance the value of agricultural products by improving market access and facilitating farmers' engagement with retailers.

- In September, WFP submitted a formal request to the Ministry of Environment through the newly established State Company for Carbon Economies for the registration of a bio-sequestering project. In addition, WFP received an in-kind contribution from the Government of Iraq co-funding the project of Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Vulnerable People in the South of Iraq funded under the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project aims to enhance climate resilience for vulnerable communities in southern Iraq.

School Feeding

- WFP Iraq and the Ministry of Education (MoE) signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) to formalize their collaboration regarding the national capacity building

and providing technical support to MoE staff. Key areas of cooperation include institutional capacity assessment using the Healthy System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) tool, developing a national school feeding policy, and collaborating on the Social Behaviour and Change Communication (SBCC) Portfolio.

Social Protection

- Under the Electronic Public Distribution System (e-PDS) project, WFP conducted the final knowledge transfer session on database operations for the Ministry of Trade's (MoT) technical team. This session included a comprehensive material for all e-PDS modules. This step marks the completion of the handover of responsibility for managing the e-PDS system to the MoT, including full responsibility for the system's data security components.
- As part of the Single Registry Development activities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), WFP Iraq organised a workshop at the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to assess the DIT technological capabilities and propose refinement of the procurement process for the Single Registry.
- In September, WFP, along with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) signed the National Nutrition Strategy for Iraq (2024-2030) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH). The Strategy is a result of leading efforts by UNICEF, WHO and multi-sectoral government entities, aiming to advance nutrition research and healthy diets, and support advocacy efforts for nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

Monitoring

- WFP released its Outcome Monitoring Report on Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) for crisis-affected populations without civil documentation, covering 30 May to 9 June 2024. The report showed an improvement by 77 percent in the food security among beneficiaries, with around 70 percent of households using cash assistance primarily for food. Notably, 60 percent of households reported their inability to access government assistance due to lack of personal ID cards. The report emphasized the need for consistent access to services as it remains critical for maintaining food security and meeting the basic needs of these vulnerable populations.
- WFP conducted 31 monitoring visits, encompassing 11 cash-out distribution points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 10 rural livelihood initiatives, 9 Economic Empowerment project locations, and 1 shop. In addition, WFP conducted 93 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

Donors

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